

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

My name is Gina Haralson. On December 16 of 2020 my life changed forever. I went upstairs to wake my son so that he could go get a test that he needed for work and I found every parent's nightmare. I opened my son's door expecting to find him asleep in his bed, and instead, I found him kneeling on the floor dead.

My son who I loved with all of my heart was gone. Unfortunately, he was already cold, and there was nothing that I could do to save him. There I was with over 30 years of nursing experience and there was nothing I could do for my son. Next to him was a rolled up dollar bill, and a small amount of powder. I called the police, telling them that there was no need to send an ambulance, but that the coroner would need to be called.

My daughter was with me when we found her brother. She also suffers from an issue with addiction with fentanyl being her drug of choice. Every day, I expect the police to show up at my house, letting me know that my other child is gone. When they did the toxicology on my son, he had 27 ng. The lethal dose of fentanyl is 2 ng. It's like a game of Russian Roulette every time someone uses this poison. The only comfort that the corner could give me was that as soon as he did it, he was gone instantly.

I have since given several interviews, and have spoken to anyone who will listen about the dangers of this drug. The amount of fentanyl that is pouring into our country is staggering. We hear of these major bust all the time, and my question then becomes, if this is the fentanyl we're catching then how much are we not catching? We must do something to stop this epidemic. We have lost more people from fentanyl and fentanyl related deaths than we have from Covid. And yet in the past, it was crickets. You didn't hear much at all about fentanyl unless it was from parents and loved ones who have lost Friends and family members.

Our children and our loved ones add their voices to ours. Please pass the HALT Fentanyl Act without amendments. We need this bill before President Trump before so many more lives are lost. We need to educate, educate, educate people, and start conversations about this epidemic. We need stronger laws and stronger punishment for those who are caught dealing and bringing this poison into our country. I beg of you in the memory of my son who I miss every day please pass this bill.

Thank you

Gina Haralson Moma of Caleb Haralson 1/6/00-12/16/20

No more Parents need to bury their children because of this poison.